

*galensis*) will be manifest to every one. The difference, however, is not only in size, but in all the proportions of the head.

In the *H. minor* there is a uniform *convexity* of the upper surface of the cranium from orbit to orbit, and between the occiput and ossa nasi; while in the common species the orbits are remarkably elevated, and the intermediate surface is *concave*. The orbit is placed about midway between the occiput and snout, and the latter is consequently short; while in the large species the orbits are placed about one-third the distance between the occiput and snout. The *H. minor* has only two canines in the lower jaw; the false molars are proximate to the canines; and the base of the zygomata is in the same plane with the upper maxilla.

The second skull of this species (which is of the same length as the other) is that of a younger animal; for the sutures are open, and the teeth in the process of changing from the deciduous to the permanent set. The posterior molars are only partially protruded, and rise obliquely from the jaws, like those of the elephant and mastodon.

Dr. Goheen, who assured me from the first that he could find no notice of this animal in the systematic works, has obligingly favoured me with the following memorandum in relation to it:—"This animal abounds in the river St. Paul's, and varies in weight from 400 to 700 pounds. They are slow and heavy in their motions, yet will sometimes stray two or three miles from the river, in which situation they are killed by the natives. They are extremely tenacious of life, and almost invulnerable, excepting when shot or otherwise wounded in the heart. When injured they become irritable and dangerous, but are said by the natives never to attack them when in their canoes. The negroes are very fond of the flesh, which seems to be intermediate in flavour between beef and veal."

My comparisons with the common hippopotamus have been made on four specimens (three of which are fully grown); two from the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope, and two from the Senegal river.—*Proceedings of the Acad. Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia*, Feb. 27, 1844.

#### KENTISH BIRDS.

##### *To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—In my last letter I complained of not having the wind N.E. by E., which for the Kentish coast is the best wind for collecting birds. It has been in that direction for some time and produced a good supply, particularly the Whimbrel, which has occurred in immense numbers, and so tame, that on their first arrival there was no difficulty in getting a good shot at them. Greenshanks rather thinner this year than usual, but the Redshank in great abundance. I have also got two specimens of the Wood Sandpiper: I only saw three, and succeeded in killing two, male and female. About the 8th of last month I shot four beautiful specimens of the Purple Sandpiper, which are in good condition. I have also some very fine specimens of the Lesser Tern, Common Tern and Sandwich Tern, with all of

which the coast has been plentifully supplied during the easterly winds.

About the 14th of last month I shot a very fine old male black Redstart in perfect plumage. A pair of Golden Orioles have been in the large gardens at Kingsgate, which were there for nearly a week, but I could not get a shot at them, being so very wild. On Saturday last I also succeeded in shooting, at about five miles from Margate, a good specimen of the Rose-coloured Pastor: there were two of them, one escaped; that which I shot is a male. I have also a good specimen of the Spotted Sandpiper, which was killed last year.

144 High Street, Margate.

S. MUMMERY.

#### SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS IN TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

It affords us very high gratification, more especially at the present time, when some of our English Universities seem disposed to make a retrograde movement in science, to be able to announce that several appointments for the promotion of Natural Science have recently been made in Ireland's only University. A chair of geology has been founded, and the distinguished Assistant Secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Mr. John Phillips—who for some time filled the chair of geology in King's College, London—has been appointed to it. With Trinity College a museum has always been connected, but in these days of progress it had become quite of an antiquated character. With the view of making it as extensively useful as possible, particularly in objects of science, a new office—Director of the Museum—has been formed, and Mr. Robert Ball, the well-known Secretary of the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland, elected to fill it, this gentleman making over to the College his own most valuable and extensive collection of natural history. To secure to the College the large collection of plants made by Dr. Coulter in California and Mexico, and to have the benefit of his botanical services, that distinguished traveller was a few years since appointed Curator of the herbarium, and his collection became the property of the University. After his lamented death, which occurred about six months ago, a successor to the new office was sought for, and that most able botanist Mr. William Henry Harvey was elected, the College, as in the case of Dr. Coulter, securing the whole of his very large and important herbarium.

About the same time the chair of botany became vacant, and Dr. George J. Allman, the most rising philosophical naturalist in Ireland, was elected to it. Better appointments than these, individually and collectively, could not have been made, and the enlightened and liberal spirit with which they have been carried out is worthy of all admiration. The best men, without reference to any previous connexion by education with the College, or to any of those external influences which even at great seats of learning will affect elections, were appointed, their eminent fitness alone for the respective offices, without any of the ordinary alloy, deciding the election.

When mentioning these appointments, it is justly due to the me-